

IMAM JAFAR SADIQ A.S. **ON SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE**

By A.H. Sheriff

In Strasberg, France, an institution has been established to conduct research into all the religions of the world. Among them Islam is one on which considerable research has already been made. Some twenty-five scholars mainly Christian from different countries are working here. The research so far made on the Shia Ithnasheri sect of Islam includes the scientific discourses and the exalted teachings of Imam Jaffer Sadiq (a.s.). On comparing them with the modern scientific theories, the scholars are profoundly amazed and confronted with a question that wherefrom could the Imam derive his deep scientific knowledge over 1300 years ago.

Hereunder is given some extracts from the said research work as quoted and translated from the Urdu AZZAHRA periodical published in Islamabad.

THE PAST HISTORY

Modern historians strongly believe in the scrutiny of past history before accepting any narrated historical event. The Greek historian Herdot says I do not accept what does not enter my brain despite the fact that his own history contains certain illogical matters.

In Islam, Imam Jaffer Sadiq (a.s.) was the first person who had declared the need of scrutinizing and going deeply into any historical narration before accepting it. Among the thousands of Imam's disciples, one was Ibne Jareer - a scholar on historical science. When he sat down to write history, he took particular care to avoid fictions and unauthentic narrations and wrote only what was logic and acceptable to human reason. Before that it was common for historians in Middle East to write in fictitious manner. Imam Jaffer Sadiq(a.s) had rejected this and proclaimed that fiction is misleading and should not be given any place in history.

What is known as Islamic history according to Ibn Abil Hadeed, was first invented and initiated by Imam Jafar Sadiq(a.s) who stressed the need and system of scrutinizing historical narrations. The Islamic history is indebted to the Imam who was first in raising objections to writing fictitious history. He is reported to have said:

“When fiction gets mixed up with history, its usefulness is lost”.

Because the benefit of history is to enable posterity to take lessons from past events and to avoid those actions which had proved harmful and disastrous to people of previous ages. The advantage we derive today from past history is that we abstain from those actions which had caused and inflicted calamities upon our ancestors.

THE EARTH AND AIR

Imam Jaffer Sadiq (a.s.) is acknowledged as the original author of most of the Islamic scientific knowledge he is mentioned to have imparted to his thousands of disciples.

In one of his valuable discourses, he had proclaimed that earth and air are not single elements but both are composed of a number of elements. This shows that even during that early age, the Imam was aware of such profound scientific subjects and that he had not only initiated but also encouraged his disciples to acquire their knowhow.

He was also the first to declare that the air contains such element which can cause fire and it also causes metals to deteriorate.

THE OTHER WORLDS

Imam Jaffer Sadiq a.s. had divulged the existence of other worlds which possesses two kinds of knowledge, one which we can understand and the other not. He is also mentioned to have said that there may be people in other worlds who are trying to know us and establish contact with us. But since we are not aware of their knowledge and language, we have not so far been able to ascertain what they are after.

In the course of discussion on the existence of other worlds, the Imam had explained the Quranic verse in which was said that a day would come when the invisible creatures would join the mankind at one place.

No one before the Imam had proclaimed that creatures in other worlds were trying to establish contact with us. Even from the time of Imam up to the 19th century, no one has touched this subject.

However it is during 19th century when French Camel Flamerin who hinted this possibility but could not succeed in his research. Since then it was in 1920 when it became evident from scientific experience that those residing in other worlds were trying to establish contact with us. Marconi of Italy in one gathering declared that I have witnessed through my sea vessel wireless such indications which confidently point to the residents in other worlds trying to contact us.